

RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE  
MINUTES

November 5, 2009  
630 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, California, 93101  
7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

JOSHUA ALLEN	<u>X</u>	TRUDY PAUL	<u>E</u>
LEESA BECK	<u>X</u>	MARSHALL SHERRILL	<u>X</u>
BENJAMIN BUSH	<u>X</u>	BARBARA SMITH SHERRILL	<u>X</u>
SILVIO DILORETO	<u>X</u>	ROGER SIMPSON	<u>X</u>
JUSTIN DULLUM	<u>X</u>	SKIP SZYMANSKI	<u>E</u>
LYNN GOEBEL	<u>X</u>	SCOTT WEXLER	<u>X</u>
DANIEL HERLINGER	<u>X</u>	BRUCE WOLLENBERG	<u>X</u>

X = Present      A = Absent      E = Excused

Officers: Ben Bush Chair, Barbara Smith Sherrill Chair and Leesa Beck Secretary  
Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist,  
Maggie Walker, and Netza Ortiz, Rental Housing Mediation Aides

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Rental Housing Mediation task Force (RHMTF) was conducted in compliance with the standards set by the Americans with Disability Act. No members from the public were present to address the RHMTF.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Roger Simpson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2009 meeting. Silvio Di Loreto seconded the motion and it passed. The October 1, 2009 meeting was cancelled.

4. CITY ADVISORY GROUP RECRUITMENT:

*Scheduled Interviews and Appointments:* Ben Bush, Chair shared that interviews before the Santa Barbara City Council to fill vacancies on the City Boards and Commissions were scheduled during the month of November on the 10, 12, 17, 24, and that appointments were tentatively scheduled for December 15, 2009. He further stated that mediators Lynn E. Goebel Tenant, Daniel R. Herlinger, Homeowner, and Marshall Sherrill, Landlord, terms were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2009. He added that both Lynn and Dan had reapplied to serve another term on the Task Force, and that Marshall would stay on the board at least until the next recruitment.

5. RHMTF FY 2009-2010 PROGRAM FUNDING:

A. *Program Donation Page Active on RHMTF Website:* Andrea Bifano expressed that special thanks were in order for RHMTF board member Skip Szymanski, who also serves in the position of Deputy Executive Director/COO of the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HASB), and Robert Fredericks, Deputy Executive Director/CAO of the HASB for making it possible for the RHMTF to use the HASB non-profit, Second Story, as a "pass through" for donations to the RHMTF. Staff further stated that the HASB would process the donations at no cost to the program and the full amount of donations would go directly to the RHMTF. Information was provided with regard to how donations could be made to the RHMTF by accessing its web page at: <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Home/RHMTF/Donate.htm>

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B. *Program Donation Page in Santa Barbara Rental Property Association's Magazine:* Ben Bush Chair stated that on behalf of the Santa Barbara Rental Property Association (SBRPA), Joan Brooks, Executive Director, had graciously donated an entire one page advertisement on the RHMTF in their News Magazine for the months of November and December 2009. The magazine along with the ad was distributed to the group. The ad provided a description of the RHMTF, information on how donations could be made, and listed the names of the RHMTF appointed mediators.

6. RHMTF BY-LAWS:

The Chair stated that an up-date on the subcommittee on the revision of the RHMTF by-laws would be tabled until a future meeting.

7. ELECTION OF RHMTF OFFICERS:

Ben Bush Chair stated that the election of the RHMTF Officers would be held on December 3, 2009. He shared the names of the current Officers: Ben Bush, Chair; Barbara Smith Sherrill Vice Chair and Lessa Beck, Secretary.

8. CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATION TRAINING: (Two Hour Training Session)

A. *Statistical Reports:* The monthly statistical report for the months of September and October 2009 were distributed. It was shared that a face-to-face mediation was held during the month of October. Mediators that facilitated the mediation were named: Dan Herlinger, Marshall Sherrill and Trudy Paul (trainee). The mediation was successful. Due to a special mediation training, it was decided that the skills used to reach a successful resolution would be shared at the next meeting.

B. *Mediation Training: Trainer Gina Rae Hendrickson, of Accord Mediation Services*

A two hour mediation training was conducted by Mediator Trainer and Author Gina Rae Hendrickson. The training was in compliance with the Dispute Resolution Programs Act Section 3622 C(6) and D. An informative training packet was distributed. It covered many topics, including, the Story Telling Process of Mediation, Problem Conversation, Solution Conversation and Probing Questions. The training also included group role play and discussion.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Holiday Pot Luck Party to be held at the December 3, 2009 RHMTF meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The RHMTF meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm